

*Save the Date!  
Saturday, July 16  
See page 4*

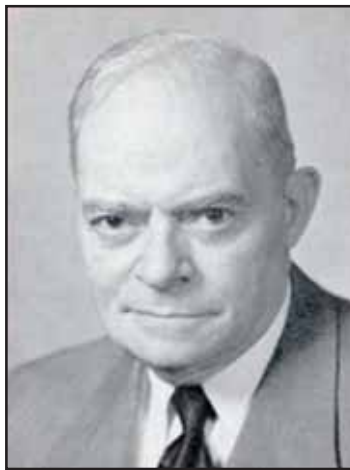
## *A look back at Blue Ash History...*

Who is Reed Hartman and why does he have a highway named after him? Same question for Fields and Ertel. The following article, reprinted with permission from the WVXU website, ([www.wvxu.org/local-news/2020-09-02/oki-wanna-know-who-were-reed-hartman-fields-ertel](http://www.wvxu.org/local-news/2020-09-02/oki-wanna-know-who-were-reed-hartman-fields-ertel)) written by Bill Rinehart and published on September 2, 2020, answers those questions

“Let's start with the basics:

Joseph Reed Hartman was born June 9, 1898, and died March 26, 1969. He graduated from Woodward High School, and after getting a chemical engineering degree from the University of Cincinnati, worked at Cincinnati Gas and Electric, which became Duke Energy.

According to Duke's records, he started as a research engineer but worked his way up to vice president of electric sales. That means he was in area development, what we call economic development today.



Joseph Reed Hartman

The president of the Blue Ash Historical Society, Tom Bell, says Hartman was very involved in the plan to build the international airport nearby. He says Cincinnati purchased a large chunk of land for that but the deal fell through.

"They were left with something like 1,600 acres of land that they weren't sure what to do with," he says. "The city of Cincinnati didn't want it. Blue Ash couldn't afford it. Reed Hartman was one of the people that helped start the industrial park, by selling the land to the different corporations and getting them to move to Blue Ash."

To honor Hartman, the highway that runs through the industrial park was named for him.

Today, there is another man in Clifton with the same name, only it's spelled differently. "R-E-I-D H-A-R-T-M-A-N-N." This Reid Hartmann is a doctor and says he was named at about the same time the highway was being built. He

says his parents just liked the sound of the name.

"I recall calling in a prescription into one of our neighborhood pharmacies and I got the usual comment, 'Oh, Reed Hartman, like the highway,' and they asked if I was any relation. I assumed it would be the usual joke," he says. "It turns out that that pharmacist used to care for Reed Hartman and his family and he had very wonderful things to say about him."

That squares with Jim Wuenker's recollections.

"I have a lot of blessings in my life because of him. My dad died young, so he sort of became a mentor to me through Knox (Presbyterian) Church and he taught me a lot."

Wuenker came to work for Hartman at the utility after he got out of the Army in 1953. He says Hartman worked on what is now the Duke Energy Convention Center, the airport project, and the subsequent Blue Ash industrial park, where the highway that bears his name runs. He says Hartman wouldn't have cared much for the naming.

"Not at all. He was a genuinely humble man, low-key, just wanted to get things done working with people. He made sure the right people were involved and good things happened. I was fortunate enough to work for him for a number of years."

Reed Hartman is buried at Spring Grove Cemetery.

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Reed Hartman Highway's northern terminus is at Fields-Ertel, the boundary, more or less, between Hamilton County and Butler and Warren counties. Assuming the road is named for two people, we turned to John Zimkus, historian and education director for the Warren County Historical Society.



"Roads back in those days often told you where you were going or who you were connecting," he says. For example, Lebanon Road leads to Lebanon, and Cincinnati-Dayton Road, well, you get the point."

"I do know the Ertel part," he says.

He says Daniel Ertel came from North Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, and settled in what is now Hamilton Township, in 1799. "Which is on the east side of the Little Miami River, so it is not in Deerfield Township, where Fields-Ertel road is. The road was apparently begun in 1836 and it was completed in 1848."

The east end of the road back then, he says, led to a fording spot on the Little Miami. There wasn't a bridge, just a low spot where crossings were possible. On the other side was the thousand acres that belonged to Ertel's family. The road connected the Ertel farm with what is now US 42, Reading Road.

Daniel Ertel was a farmer. He and his wife Catherine had 11 children, and there are descendants still in the area today. But he wasn't famous. He wasn't a politician, or a hero or anything like that. So why did he get a road named for him? Zimkus has the answer:

The Fields in Fields-Ertel... well, that's a little harder. John Zimkus says he couldn't find anything, and researchers at the Butler and Hamilton county historical societies both said they came up empty, too.

If you know where the Fields in Fields-Ertel comes from, or you have a question about Ohio, Kentucky or Indiana, we want to know.

After publishing this story, a number of people wrote in or tweeted a theory on the "Fields" in Fields-Ertel.

...."If roads were named to announce who or what they connected, perhaps the "fields" of Fields-Ertel was literally a series of fields that were well-known and used as a visual landmark at the time?"

...."the fields in Fields Ertel is just inspired by the 'many fields' of Daniel Ertel according to Symmes Township.

This might explain the lack of a historical Fields family."

*Source: www.wvxxu.org/local-news, by Bill Rinehart*



## Thank you!

to the Blue Ash Civic League for their recent donation to the Blue Ash Historical Society. The funds will be dedicated to upgrading our A/V equipment, starting with a scanner for organizing our boxes of photographs and a 32" television to display them on at our open houses.

We appreciate the generous donation and appreciate their continued support!



BAHS members Tom Bell and Dave Davis show off our new TV and scanner



*Thanks to all who braved the cold, windy day to join us at the re-opening of the Hunt House after two years of restoration.*



Blue Ash Mayor Marc Sirkin cuts the ribbon with BAHS president Tom Bell

Cellist Diana Flores provided an afternoon of entertainment with her soothing music



Mayor Sirkin and Tom Bell come in from the cold



Our dining room table was set with the beautiful Limoges china donated by Mark Bowers



We also celebrated the 36th anniversary of the establishment of the Blue Ash Historical Society



Guests moved from room to room, admiring the displays and artifacts throughout the house

**Special thanks to Mayor Sirkin and Parks and Recreation staff Callie Fisher and Sara Tauer for their participation and assistance - we couldn't do what we do if they didn't do what they do!**



## Blue Ash Historical Society

presents

General Lew Wallace

July 16, 2022, 1:30

Hunt House, 4364 Hunt Road

Portrayed by Mr. Bernie O'Bryan

**General Lew Wallace** was a local boy who received an irregular formal education. Still, he rose to highest rank in the Civil War. His quick actions saved Cincinnati and Washington, DC from Confederate attack. He formed the first African American army units in the paid service and established the first Freeman's Bureau to assist freed slaves with support and training. Noted as a Renaissance man as architect, sculptor, painter, inventor, businessman, soldier, speaker, lawyer and most famously writer of Ben-Hur and other stories, plays, poetry and even military manuals. He served on the two most famous trials of the Civil War era (Lincoln Assassination, Andersonville Prison commander). He put down the New Mexico

Lincoln County war, brought in Billy the Kid and was close friends with the Sultan of the Ottoman Empire. His family were equally over achievers leaving a lasting legacy. During his lifetime he was one of the world's most famous people.

**Bernie O'Bryan** has played General Lew Wallace in the nationally televised '90s film "Lew Wallace: Shiloh Soldier, Ben-Hur Bard" and on many stages and events. He also has appeared in the film "Levi Coffin" as a slave master, a soldier in several films ("Perryville", "Where the River Bends" and in a new documentary on "U.S. Grant". Other characters Bernie brings to life include: Blind Confederate Stovepipe Johnson, 1864 Vice Presidential candidate from Cincinnati "George Hunt Pendleton" who opposed President Lincoln, Judge and military advisor Joshua Hall Bates and Medal of Honor recipient in 1899 Captain Bernard B Byrne for his action during the Philippine Insurrection.

followed by

Dave Moore, member of Erlanger Historical Society

presenting

Cincinnati Civil War, 1862

Refreshments served - enjoy ice cream on the lawn!

***Can't make it to a Saturday open house?***

***Effective Thursday, July 14, and the second Thursday of every month thereafter, BAHS members will be at the Hunt House from 7:00-8:00 p.m. and are available to conduct small tours, answer your questions, and give information about our organization. We hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about the Hunt House, Blue Ash history, and the Blue Ash Historical Society.***

***Stop by and say hello!***

***You can also schedule a personal tour - small group, classroom, scout troop, etc. by contacting Tom Bell, 513-324-7145, tomnkt421@aol.com***

